

Come on in to

our Kindergarten Open House!

All children born in 2011
are invited to join us for
a Kindergarten Open
House at your local
DSBN public school!



See inside for more information
or visit our Kindergarten website:
www.dsbniagara.org/kindergarten



Visit us anytime between
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 5



REGISTER!

How old does my child have to be to register for Kindergarten?

If your child was born in 2011, they can start Kindergarten in September 2015.

How do I know if my child is ready?

Children who are ready for school are:

- happy playing with others
- eager to learn
- beginning to take responsibility for themselves and others
- beginning to be independent
- curious
- learning to cooperate

How do I register?

Start by downloading your child's registration form.

Visit us online at:

www.dsbm.org/kindergarten
and click this button.



Bring the completed form with you when you attend the Kindergarten Open House at your local DSBM school. There will also be forms available on Open House night.

To complete registration, you will need your child's:

1. Birth Certificate, Birth Registration or Baptismal Certificate
2. Immunization Certificate
3. Provincial Health Card
4. You may be asked for proof of address

What if I can't attend the Open House?

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Martha Cullimore Public School
3155 St. Andrew Ave., Niagara Falls
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Come prepared to play!

DSBN Kindergarten classes are made for active, curious learners. By visiting a Kindergarten Open House, your child will be able to experience everything our schools have to offer to stimulate the mind and create a love of learning and exploration.

As parents, you'll have an opportunity to meet the staff and see how they create an environment where your children will feel safe, supported and inspired to seek answers to all their important questions.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2015

French connection

12-year-old Wainfleet girl
getting an education in France.
Page 3

Tobogganing ban?

S'no way is Port Colborne going
to entertain outlawing fun
Page 8

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Focused on Fiddler on the Roof



GREG FORWINGER/QUI AGENCY NAGARA

Cast and crew rehearse Sunday for Port Colborne Operatic Society's production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, which opens in February. See story on page 2.

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UPFRONT

■ **THEATRE:** Port Colborne Operatic Society staging its 70th anniversary year production

Cast and crew fit for Fiddler

GREG FURMINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

The top dog at the City of Port Colborne these days is looking fit as a fiddler.

In fact, you might not recognize Bob Hell walking down the street, now that he's sporting a long, scratchy beard just days ago dyed dark.

"This is going to be a surprise for everybody," said the municipality's otherwise white-haired chief administrative officer, who suggests that at the next city council meeting "I may break out into song."

It would be great promotion, in front of cable television cameras, for Port Colborne Operatic Society's production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, for which Hell plays the lead role.

Hell, who for 25 years had been a town crier and who sings at his church, got hooked on the operatic society when family egged him to get involved three years ago for *Oliver!* He returned last year for *The Music Man*.

"When the final curtain is lowered, the emotional lead in is amazing because you work your butt off for so many months," he says.

"Once you get a taste of that ... that flavour you get from the show, it leaves you wanting more."

Perhaps that's why so many families are involved in PCOS productions, some of them having returned for several decades.

This year, the society celebrates its 70th year.

SHOW DATES

Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 15 at 2 p.m. Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 22 at 2 p.m. Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. March 1 at 2 p.m.
Lakeshore Catholic High School Auditorium, 19 Janet St., Port Colborne
Tickets for reserved seating are \$20, available by phoning Roselawn Box Office at 905-834-7572

See more at www.portcolborneoperaticsociety.com

"If you ever wanted to get a 'hobby,' this is the one to do," says Hell.

The only other time *Fiddler* has been brought to the stage by PCOS was back in 1972.

Then 21, Ann Converset played the role of Tzeitel. Now she's in the director's chair, as she has been for the past decade for PCOS.

"This is the tough part — we're starting to put the orchestra in and we're starting to put in the sets," she said Sunday afternoon, as cast and crew continued their twice-weekly rehearsal schedule.

Sets started being moved into the 600-seat theatre at Lakeshore Catholic High School on Saturday from an old hall on Chippawa Rd. in Berthel that functions as a workshop, led by set designer James Crawford.

Donna Moreau is choreographer of a cast of 62 people who by day work in factories, offices and stores.

"They're doing a good job, because they're not dancers," she says.

Converset nods in agreement and smiles.

Today a staple of amateur and high school theatre, *Fid-*

dler *On The Roof* won nine Tony Awards when it debuted in 1964. Its creators are Jerome Robbins and Harold Prince, songwriters Jerry Block and Sheldon Harnick, and bookwriter Joseph Stein.

Set in the Russian village of Anatevka, the story focuses on a poor dairyman, Teyve, and his five daughters.

With the help of a tight-knit Jewish community, Teyve tries to protect his daughters and instill in them traditional values in the face of changing social mores and the growing anti-Semitism of czarist Russia.

"It's a very bittersweet story about family and tradition," Converset says of the production.

Says Hell, "It's going to be a great show."

Faye Bean is the musical director of both paid and volunteer musicians for the show, best known for its *Sunrise, Sunset, Matchmaker* and *If I Were a Rich Man* numbers.

Behind the scenes are about another 60 people tending to sets, props, costume, lighting, canvassing for sponsors and more.



PHOTOS BY GREG FURMINGER/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Bob Hell, playing the lead as Teyve, rehearses Sunday for Port Colborne Operatic Society's production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, which opens in February.



Cast and crew rehearse Sunday for Port Colborne Operatic Society's production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, which opens in February.



Bob Hell, playing the lead as Teyve, rehearses Sunday.

"It's very much a labour of love," says Jeff Ballin, who's been with the operatic society for the past six years and acts as its public relations chair.

Full dress rehearsals for the

production presented by Niagara's longest-running amateur theatre company start at the end of the month.

Opening night is Saturday, Feb. 14 — which will double as a meet-the-cast night after curtain call.

There will be seven per-

formances.

"It's right spot-on," says Ballin.

"It's an amateur production, but we put on a professional show."

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **EDUCATION:** 12-year-old Alicia Spies returns home next month with her European 'sister'

Wainfleet girl learns about life in France

GREG FURMINGER
(MI) Agency Niagara

There's a junior explorer living in Wainfleet who apparently wants to soak up all the world has to offer.

She's only 12 years old, and since last August she's been living with strangers about four hours west of Paris.

"This is something I asked my mom to look into," Alicia Spies said in a phone interview last week from Pontivy, situated in France's northwestern Brittany region.

"I just knew there were possibilities out there that people can go away and study other languages and stuff," she said.

So far "it's been good". Her family has hosted at their waterfront Lowbanks home, for one-month periods, two exchange students from Spain, one who returned for a second year, so Alicia did have some familiarity with exchanges.

While in France, she is staying with 11-year-old Leopoldine Baucher — Leo, for short — and her family at their rural home that backs onto a river, two sheep in the yard, about five minutes from the bilingual town centre.

"We've been getting along really good," Alicia said.

Despite language differences, they're just two average tweens who like to talk about "girl stuff" — that is, she added, "boys at school."

Music and singing has also been a bonding agent between the pair. Alicia has established a group of four close friends and looks forward to attending a birthday party Saturday.

For the Grade 7 student from St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School in Wainfleet's township centre, education across the Atlantic Ocean has been a unique experience.

She's in a Grade 6 class there, she said, so as not to miss learning new curriculum while also trying to understand and master a new language.

"I was studying French at school (in Wainfleet) for about 30 minutes a day, so I was OK," she said. "Now I can speak more than maybe an 11th grader."

She said her instruction is "like high school" in that she has a different teacher for each subject.

Because school, which starts at 8 a.m., runs all year long in France, she gets a two-week break after every two months in the classroom.

In her time off, she's been shown the sights: the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame Cathedral and Paris Disneyland.

"For the Christmas break, we went skiing in the French Alps," she said excitedly of her first time on skis.

Her mom, Laura, said despite her

young age, Alicia has always had an interest in language and culture.

"I've never been to Europe, so she's a very lucky girl!"

While Alicia said what she misses most about being away from home so long is "the loudness and my little sister," both her parents quipped it's been "very quiet" since she's been gone.

Alicia is taking part in an experience put together by En Famille, which has been arranging six-month language immersion exchanges for children ages nine to 16 for the past 35 years.

The intent is that when children return home, they are conversationally bilingual.

It was all Alicia's idea to sign up.

"This is nothing we really could have cooked up," said her dad, Gary. "It's a big leap of faith for her and it's worked out."

The trip is costing US\$3,000 for application and administration fees, \$1,300 for airline travel plus a surcharge for an unaccompanied minor, and about \$960 in miscellaneous expenses including medical travel insurance.

Any other needs are covered by host families, as the young participants are treated akin to their own children.

Alicia left with only 30 Euros that her grandmother had given her.

"When you look back on this, it's perfect for her," Gary said of the experience.

It's one through which she has gotten more than she bargained for.

An unexpected lesson in world affairs developed earlier this month with the killing of 12 people in Paris at satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo*. On Friday, 12 people suspected of helping militant Islamic gunmen in the terrorist attack were arrested by French police.

There have also been several false alerts of terrorist activity across Paris since then.

"She's fully aware of what's going on," her dad said.

Despite being hours away from Paris — which does afford family at home some comfort — after the news broke, Gary said, Alicia's school bus was under police escort and kids at the 800-pupil middle school were kept indoors on breaks.

"Certainly for her, she's going to grow up a bit because she's closer to it and is going to be ingrained in it."

He has no regrets about letting his daughter see the world.

Alicia returns home to her mom and dad, six-year-old sister Liana and 16-year-old brother Kyle on Feb. 21.

Leo will arrive about a week later to start her six-month stay in Wainfleet.

"I'm hoping for (Alicia) that it's going to be a lifetime friendship," Dad said, already referring to the Spies' future visitor as "our European daughter."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Twelve-year-old Alicia Spies of Wainfleet is pictured during her first time skiing, which will be a memory to last a lifetime. She's shown in the French Alps near Italy's border, with Mont Blanc, Europe's highest mountain at 2,810 metres above sea level, behind her and language exchange trip host Fabienne Baucher.

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IMPORT NEWS

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Cities to pay garbage cash after all

ROB HOULE
QMI Agency Niagara

Turns out Niagara Falls and St. Catharines are on the hook after all, for not paying enough for garbage collection. At last week's budget review committee of the whole, it was disclosed the City of Niagara Falls had been underbilled by the Region a total of \$240,112 in 2013 and 2014, while the City of St. Catharines was underbilled \$40,287 over the same period.

Because the underbilling was the Region's fault, staff recommended the upper-tier government eat up that shortfall in 2015 using an unexpected surplus created from a recycling contract with the Region of Waterloo.

The reason given was to not "unduly impact the municipalities that were undercharged" by compounding "two years of increases on one year," Helen Chamberlain, the Region's director of financial management and planning, and deputy treasurer, told councillors that night.

Forgiving the underbilling did not sit well with Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop.

He likened it to a mistake made by a utility provider. "They generally recoup their costs from their customers," he said, even if it was their fault.

At Thursday's regional council meeting, Redekop said to it that Niagara Falls and St. Catharines will pay for the service they received.

He introduced a motion, which easily passed, that will see Niagara's two largest cities pay the money back over the next two years.

Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati spoke in favour of paying up.

"I think this is about equity, it's about fair-

ness, it's about doing the right thing," he said. "There was an error in billing, it was very simple, and we're going to do the right thing."

One chair good, two chairs better?

St. Catharines regional Coun. Tim Rigby's attempt to have a motion creating a co-chair system for the corporate services committee deferred was defeated at Thursday's regional council meeting.

Rigby wanted the matter, which had already been decided at committee, returned to committee to be discussed in tandem with council remuneration, which was deferred at last week's meeting.

"It is a remuneration piece that we need to be discussing," Rigby argued.

With the motion to defer quashed, Rigby spoke out against the co-chair system, which sees both chairs receive a yearly stipend of \$2,000. He noted of the other standing committees, neither the public works or planning committees function on a two-chair system.

"Are you saying that that committee has more business and more work going on?" Rigby said.

While a co-chair system is in place for the public health and social services committee, it is necessary there because it deals "with two different departments... with commissioners in each department," Rigby said.

After Rigby spoke, Port Colborne regional Coun. David Barrick, who upon ratification by council would be co-chairing the corporate services committee with Andy Petrowski of St. Catharines, attempted to end the debate by asking Chair Al Caslin to "call the question," a move that would put the matter to an immediate vote.

The move to limit discussion was quickly

objected to by Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop.

"Point of order, Mr. Chair, there are people on the list who wish to speak — that doesn't really seem appropriate. I can't understand why the debate would be cut off or why these questions would be cut off."

Chair Caslin apologized to Redekop, but council procedure allowed for such a move.

Before Barrick's motion could be voted on, it needed to be seconded. The call from Caslin for a seconder went out twice before Petrowski raised his hand.

The motion to close debate was defeated, putting Barrick back in the queue of speakers.

"I don't think we should be spending a lot of time on this," Barrick said. "I find it very difficult that we spend very little time on a \$120-million capital budget — it gets approved in the blink of an eye — and then we talk for 45 minutes about whether we should be a chair or co-chair system."

Barrick noted the corporate services committee had a co-chair system the last term. It was decided by council last spring, in a motion put forward by Petrowski, to do away with the co-chair system for corporate services beginning the new term.

Barrick said \$2,000 for co-chairs was small potatoes when taken into the context the Region's yearly budget is approximately \$1 billion.

"If other committees want to bring forward a co-chair, let the other committees bring it forward," Barrick said.

St. Catharines regional Coun. Bruce Timms argued the complexity of the corporate committee, especially the human resources file, required it be served by co-chairs.

"It's well worth the \$2,000 because we will be demanding a significant amount of time on the

human resources file," Timms said.

Chair debate postponed

A motion by Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn to have the next regional chair directly elected by the public was deferred for six months, with direction to staff to produce a report to council at that time.

"I'm not going to make any bones about it. You know it, I know it, folks across Niagara know it — the way in which we appoint the regional chair is antiquated and undemocratic," Augustyn said in a prepared speech to councillors. "In fact, it's indicative of the things that keep Niagara back — holding on to old ways of doing things, not keeping up with the times, failing to innovate or improve."

Following Augustyn's pitch, Diodati, who said he was open to a discussion on governance, made the motion to defer for six months, saying it was important for the new members of regional council to be fully informed on the topic.

"And I ask staff to prepare a report detailing the past work undertaken by council on this issue of governance reform," he said.

The motion was approved by every member of council, including Augustyn.

Afterward, he said he was not disappointed the matter was put over and encouraged residents to contact their regional representative to tell them where they stand on the subject of an elected chair.

Augustyn's entire speech can be read on his blog at www.pelhammayoradave.com. blogspot.ca

rob.houle@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: RobH.Standard

Shipwrecks — Cedarbranch

SKIP GILLHAM
For QMI Agency Niagara

The Canadian tanker *Cedarbranch* burned at the B-A Oil Dock in Montreal on July 31, 1965.

The blaze began with an explosion and fire in the engine room and, by the time things settled down, there were 15 reported explosions and the after end of the ship was gutted.

Montreal firefighters stayed on the scene for 48 hours to prevent the flames from spreading to shore installations. One sailor

was killed and another later died from injuries.

Despite the significant damage, the 15-year-old ship was repaired, lengthened and returned to service. A year later it was instrumental in rescuing 18 sailors from the burning freighter Cap Diamant on the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Cedarbranch was sold and renamed *Secola* in 1978. It then left the lakes for work on the Caribbean as *Kito Maru* in 1979. The vessel was broken up for scrap at Brownsville, Texas, beginning in March 1985.



The Cedarbranch, showing 1965 fire damage in the aft.

HARRY STOTT/SUPPLIED PHOTO

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LOCAL NEWS

It's never too cold for fishing



GREG FURMINGER/
QMI AGENCY
NAGARA
Ice-fishing huts dot Sugarloaf Harbour Marina in Port Colborne. The site was a busy spot Saturday morning for people wanting to cast a line.

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■ PORT COUNCIL

City hikes cost of service calls

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

A service call from the City of Port Colborne will cost more in 2015 – especially after hours.

Council approved new engineering and operations rates and fees last week, though not everyone was pleased with what they saw.

The rates and fees are updated on an annually using the CanData Construction Cost Index for Ontario, which reflects yearly variations in the cost of wages, materials and equipment in the construction industry.

Port Colborne's new rates reflect a price increase of 1.9%.

Ward 1 Coun. Dave Elliott had concern about the difference in rates during and after business hours.

To have water turned on or off during regular business hours, for instance, the cost is \$57. Should the service be required after hours that number climbs to \$407.

The rates only differ slightly from 2014, which had them pegged at \$56 and \$400 respectively.

"I'm all for cost recovery, but it almost seems to be a penal cost for someone who needs to call us on weekends," Elli-

ott said.

"I understand there's a minimum cost, but somehow we have to take a look at what we're charging our residents."

Elliott said he had a hard time understanding why someone faced with a water leak after hours has to pay "eight times the amount of someone who has it happen Monday to Friday between 8 (a.m.) and 5 (p.m.)."

He acknowledged the rates include wages negotiated for staff after hours, but said he still could not agree with them.

"I'm totally against that charge and somehow we have to fix it going forward."

Ron Hanson, Port Colborne's director of engineering and operations, said the rates are charged according to the cost to the city.

If a worker is called out on a Sunday, "it's a four-hour call and it's double time and rates are charged accordingly," he said.

The city, he added, will work with any property owner to create a payment plan for service costs when needed.

Elliott recommended that the numbers be reviewed "in the context of budgeting and contract negotiations."

"We've got to try and save our residents as much money as possible."

■ BYLAW: Council passes updated tree policy dealing with private property Port Colborne targets dead, diseased trees

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

Port Colborne is taking action to deal with dead or diseased trees found on private property.

During the first meeting of 2015, city council updated its tree bylaw that allows staff to notify property owners when removal of a tree is necessary because it may pose a danger to anyone using local roads.

The cost of that removal will fall on the property owner.

For trees that pose an immediate danger to someone using a nearby road, the cost of removal will fall on the city.

Council directed staff to update its tree policy in January 2014. The direction came only two months after the November 2013 death of a Port Colborne woman who was killed when a large tree fell on the car she was driving on Fielden Ave.

The incident, which involved a tree that sat on the border of both private and city-owned property, occurred during a windstorm in which Environment Canada recorded Port Colborne as having the strongest wind gusts in the province, reaching 106 km/h.

At that time, area residents expressed concerns about mature trees in the neighbourhood.

The updated policy will also allow the city to prevent trees from being planted on boulevards, which will reduce the municipality's maintenance responsibilities and to control the planting of certain types of trees too close to property lines.

Ash trees have become a concern in the city due to infestation by the invasive emerald ash borer.

While many have been removed, there are still more that need to be addressed, said bylaw enforcement officer Sherry Hanson.

The bylaw contains guidelines for both emergency and non-emergency situations.

When the homeowner is notified about a necessary removal, they will have 14 days to object and appeal.

If there is no objection, or the appeal is denied, the property owner must file an application for removal and remove the tree.

If the application is not filed and the tree not removed, the city will remove it and charge the homeowner.

Cost for the city to remove the tree will depend on variables such as the height and size of the tree, whether a crane needs to be brought in and the proximity of nearby hydro vines, Hanson said.

The cost of removal, she added, is set at \$300 per hour.

Coun. Dave Elliott had concern with no definitive timeline being provided for property owners to have a tree removed before the city comes in and does it for them.

The time frame will vary depending on the situation, Hanson said, and could range from 30 to 90 days.

She agreed to add a line to the removal application that will indicate how long will be given to have the tree cut down.

■ NIAGARA BUSINESS

Mixed news for retail sector

DAN DAKIN
QMI Agency Niagara

The news may not be all bad for some of the 400 soon-to-be unemployed Target workers.

Minacas, a call centre in Niagara Falls that has a customer service contract with one of the world's largest electronic manufacturers, said the timing works out well for it to hire many of the employees.

Last Thursday, Target announced it was closing all of its 133 stores in Canada, including the three that opened in the Niagara Region in 2012.

The Pen Centre store in St. Catharines and Morrison St. store in Niagara Falls each employ nearly 150 people. The Seaway Mall store in Welland employs approximately 110 people.

"It has a devastating impact on our retail workforce here in Welland and across the region," Welland Mayor Frank Campton said Friday. "It's something we have to live with and in this case, there was nothing any level of government could do about it. It was a corporate decision."

But Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati said there may be some good news.

He met with a Minacas official Friday morning, who said the Falls call centre would try to accommodate as many of the laid off workers as it could.

"They have similar pay jobs with a great history in this community," Diodati said. "As sad as we are to see Target leave the area, there is a silver lining to this dark cloud. I think that will come as some relief."

Minacas Niagara Falls chief delivery officer Keith Callahan confirmed the company would try to find work for some of the Target staff.

"We're going through a pretty big ramp up right now," he said.

Minacas isn't allowed to say which company it offers incoming technical support calls for, but numerous former employees have said the call centre's only client is Apple.

Callahan wouldn't confirm that, but said the client has asked it to hire another 100 or so employees immediately, and possibly another group of 100 workers by April. Minacas currently employs about 500 people.

"It's funny they're asking us to staff up at a time we're usually not doing that," he said.

Callahan said Minacas' human resources workers have already met with their counterparts from Target and have reached out to the workers.

"Selfishly, it's helping me because I'm getting quality candidates," Callahan said. "We seek the same type of employees (as Target) so their unfortunate loss

is our gain."

He said jobs aren't guaranteed to the former Target workers, but that any employees from any of the three locations who can find transportation to work in Niagara Falls would be considered.

The Target news Thursday was part of a stretch of grim news for retail workers. Sony announced Thursday it was closing all of its remaining retail outlets across Canada. There had been a Sony Outlet at the Canada One Factory Outlets in Niagara Falls, but it closed at the end of May.

Mexx Canada, meanwhile, had previously announced it was closing all of its retail locations as the head company went bankrupt. In Niagara, the Mexx locations at the Pen Centre, Canada One Outlets and the new Outlet Collection at Niagara are all closing this weekend.

Clothing retailer Smart Set has also said it's closing all of its stores, including a location on Vanickle Rd. in St. Catharines that employs 12 people.

Welland's Seaway Mall president Mike Belcastro said there's a nervousness in the retail sector.

"From yesterday to today, there's just so much rumbling of so many big chains that possibly could close," he said.

Belcastro said there's a large shopping centre industry event coming up in two weeks where more information will come out about possible closures.

"We all go to find out the state of the industry," he said. "Usually what happens in retail is you wait until you get your Christmas sales in and then you evaluate from there. If you see your tenants are down for the year, then you're in trouble. If everyone held their own, you don't worry so much."

Niagara Region Chief Alan Castle said the region is monitoring the retail closures closely.

"Our thoughts are with the employees and their families. Let's face it, there are 400 jobs in Niagara," Castle said. "This council is placing a strong priority on making sure we're creating jobs. There are employers looking and I would encourage them to look at these employment-ready people from Target."

But Kendra Coultre, a Brock University associate professor in the centre for labour studies, said not enough attention is being paid to retail sector job losses.

"There's a public perception that retail jobs are temporary, but that's incorrect. Retail is the largest employment sector in Canada," she said.

Coultre said the median age of retail workers in Canada is 34 and that 40% are 45 or older. There are also far more female workers than men in retail, she said.

"Retail plays such a significant role, particularly when some of those male-dominated industry jobs are eliminated," said Coultre. "When you see a plant close, it's often women you see taking on

extra work."

Campton said the type of jobs being lost shouldn't matter.

"The retail sector is known not to be the highest-paying sector in the job sector, but they employ

people. In my mind, every job is as important as any other job," he said.

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Mayor says sledding isn't on thin ice in Welland

GREG FURNINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

Ban tobogganing on city property?

Ain't gonna happen in Welland. "I'm 58 years old now and I've been tobogganing at Chippawa Park since I was three," Mayor Frank Campbell said of the Rose City, "most popular sledding spot."

"I love tobogganing." Some communities have recently tried to ban or limit tobogganing over safety concerns, and the bans making recent headlines have been given icy receptions.

Around Ontario, tobogganing has been banned at Orangeville's best-known hill on advice from the town's insurer for a number of years. But the issue really came to light in recent weeks when old no-tobogganing signs were replaced.

Public outrage resulted in a week-

end "sled-in" demonstration earlier this month.

For well over a decade, the city of Hamilton has banned sledding on its city property — yet in 2013 it paid out a \$900,000 tobogganing-related settlement after a Hamilton lawyer broke his spine sledding in 2004 where No Tobogganing signs were posted.

A handful of American cities have also banned or limited tobogganing to protect themselves from lawsuits. Welland's mayor suggested widespread bans are perhaps an "overreaction."

Coasting down a hill on a Krazy Karpet is part of the Canadian fabric, he noted. And if you don't do it on city property, where would you do it? he asked.

"Who has a big hill in their back yard?"

He has no intention of seeking to

ban the wintertime fun at Welland parks.

"In all my years here (on city council), on and off since 1991, it's never come up."

Port Colborne chief administrative officer Bob Hell said to his recollection his city has never considered any type of bans on it.

"People have to take responsibility for their own actions," he said.

Sadly, "people are becoming so crazy" and looking to collect payment for their injuries, he said.

While municipalities may play only minuscule roles in someone being injured, they have deep pockets and insurance and typically for those reasons end up paying the biggest costs awarded by the courts, Hell said.

He dreads the day a municipal insurer refuses to provide coverage for those reasons end up paying the biggest costs awarded by the courts, Hell said.

He dreads the day a municipal insurer refuses to provide coverage for those reasons end up paying the biggest costs awarded by the courts, Hell said.

kids are covered head to toe in protective equipment.

The long, broad hill at H.H. Knoll Lakeside Park is a "prime tobogganing area" — and it's also popular for children to roll down in the summertime.

Dave Augustyn noted Pelham has a "tobogganing run" at Marlene Stewart Street Park in Fordham.

"It's a fun thing to do, but I encourage people to be safe when they go about it," the town's mayor said.

Augustyn knows first-hand what can go wrong when "tobogganing improperly." When he was 16, he said, he sustained a concussion and spent the night in hospital after a mishap on hills near the Welland Canal in Thorold.

There had been concern in 2004 about tobogganing on St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. property off Glendale Ave., but sledders rejoiced when the seaway authority clarified that while it didn't encourage it, it also had no intention of banning it.

Its concern was about related parking problems.

Luckily for sledders, there have been no rumblings among any local municipalities looking into a ban.

Even the premier said this is one area in which the Ontario government won't be laying down the law.

"The only thing that makes winter bearable is that you can play in it," Kathleen Wynne said last week.

"If you couldn't slide on it or skate on it, winter would be pretty miserable," she said. "As with many activities, we have to apply common sense."

In Toronto, 14 parks out of more than 1,500 do have bans on tobogganing, but they are only put in place if conditions are unsafe — rocks, too many trees.

Toronto Mayor John Tory laughed off any suggestion that tobogganing be banned outright.

"People fall down on the street when they're just walking along," he said. "Are we going to ban walking down the street?"

—With files from QMI Agency

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■ CAR SHOWS: Port Colborne group adds extra weeks to coming season

Downtown Port Colborne event hoping to expand toward expansion in 2015

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

There's no doubt this group is driven to succeed.

The Port Colborne Downtown Cruisers Association had a big inaugural year in the heart of the lakeside city — and that momentum is expected to keep piling.

Members of the association, which ran 18 cruise nights in 2014, took to city council chambers last week to share their accomplishments and ask for support to help the popular events expand.

The Cruisers recorded 490 registered cars throughout the year, a number expected to climb to 700 in 2015, association representative Tony Spittel told council.

The success of the events allowed the group to provide a \$7,000 donation to the Port Colborne Community Fund, which provides grants to charities serving the community.

The hope is to see that donation amount increased to \$10,000 in 2015, Spittel said.

He acknowledged the targets for this year are big, but he's confident they're within

reach.

The weekly cruise nights, which are privately funded and managed, have turned Port Colborne into a "premium car destination in Niagara," he said, with people also travelling from western New York, London, Ont., and the Greater Toronto Area to participate.

The group wants to expand to 21 from 18 weeks and would like permission to use market square as overflow parking, as is the safest nearby location, Spittel said.

A noise bylaw exemption was also requested for Thursdays between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. to allow for music to be played.

Ward 4 Coun. Ron Bodner asked that members of the association meet with city staff to determine whether the requests can be accommodated and return to council with a report.

"I'm sure it can work," he said. The report is expected to return to council by the end of February.

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LOCAL NEWS

FEDERAL ELECTION

Badawey announces hopes for Liberal nomination

ALLAN BENNER
QMI Agency Niagara

Vance Badawey has no intention of spending the next four years watching from the sidelines.

He announced Wednesday that he has started the process towards becoming the Niagara Centre riding's Liberal party candidate in the upcoming federal election.

"It's something that I've been considering for quite some time... My intent wasn't to sit on my hands for the next four years or even longer, for that matter," said Badawey, who lost his bid to become Port Colborne's regional councillor in the Oct. 27 municipal election. "I really and truly enjoy serving the public and serving the people and it's something that has been bred into me for a long time."

After 17 years of serving the people of Port Colborne as a city councillor and mayor, Badawey said it's not something that he's prepared to give up.

The Liberal party's local constituency association has yet to set a date for its nomination meeting where a candidate will be selected.

Badawey said he has already set goals for the riding he'd like to accomplish if he's ultimately elected to serve as a member of Parliament for the riding where he has called home throughout his 49 years.

"My No. 1 goal is to really return to grassroots motion of representing our constituents, to really listen and learn and take to

Ottawa what you hear from both residents and businesses... and to ensure that they then hear loud and clear the interests of the constituency," he said. "At the end of the day, we have to bring a heck of a lot more attention back to this area."

He said communities within the Niagara Centre riding, as well as neighbouring cities throughout the region, have been struggling for the past decade.

"I think given the current state of affairs here, we have to get much better at fighting much harder and therefore get a great deal more attention," Badawey said.

Through his role as Port Colborne's mayor, Badawey said he was able to help ensure the area's obtained the status as an economic gateway centre and zone allowing area communities to provide incentives to lure new industries.

But working at the federal government level, Badawey said he's confident he will be able to do more to assist the local economy and "ensure that we're more competitive with other destinations throughout the world."

"We're constantly hearing from business that we can do better, and I think at the federal level there's a great deal to be done there to once again not only bring attention to this area but also ensure that the policies that are in place will be of benefit to the business community so the economy can be much better than it is currently."

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IN BRIEF

Auditions set for local theatre production

The search is on for the stars of the latest Caniside Players production.

The community theatre group is looking for four adults — three women, aged 20 and up, and one middle-aged man — to bring to life Neil Simon's *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*.

Auditions are set for Sunday, Jan. 25, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., and Tuesday, Jan. 27 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Callbacks are scheduled for

Thursday, Jan. 29, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

All auditions take place at the Welland Community Wellness Complex, 145 Lincoln St. Roles include Barney

Cashman, a married man who wants to join the sexual revolution, but has no experience in adultery; Elaine Navazio, a foul-mouthed siren who likes cigarettes, whiskey and other women's husbands; Bobbi Michele, an actress who Cashman discovers is madder than a hatter; and Jeannette Fisher, a staunch moralist who also happens to be Cashman's wife's best friend.

Evening performances of the show, directed by Lee Moffatt, will take place May 1, 2, 8 and 9, with a matinee performance May 3.

To help land the production, the group is hosting a murder mystery dinner event on Valentine's Day. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/CanisidePlayersWelland.

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IN BRIEF

Seedy Saturday set

Wellandport Community Centre will be a seedy place on Valentine's Day — and gardeners will love it.

Niagara South Seedy Saturday, designed to swap, buy and sell seeds, takes place Feb. 14 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Seedy Saturdays and Sundays are held across the country, and are celebrations of open pollinated seed, gardening and community.

There will be four speakers at the event taking place at the community centre at 5042 Canborough Rd. in Smithville: Award-

winning author and Tribune columnist Tiffany Mayer will talk about her new book *Niagara Food*; Steven Biggs, author of *No Gif Gardening*, will talk about growing figs; Hanna Jacobs of Matchbox Gardens will talk about heirlooms and seed saving; and a fourth speaker is to be announced.

In addition to seed vendors, there will be people selling preserves, natural soaps and body care products, an representation from groups including Seeds of Diversity Canada and Greening Niagara and more.

The main event is a seed exchange table for trading with others.

There will also be a garden giveaway table. Visitors can bring their old gardening magazines, books, clean tools and more that are no longer of use.

Admission is by a suggested \$2 donation.

More details are available by contacting Linda Crago of Tree and Twig Heirloom Vegetable Farm at www.treeandtwig.ca, or follow at www.facebook.com/pages/Niagara-Seedy-Saturday/162982097069152.

Dementia patients need help

The Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region is renewing its appeal for more volunteers of all ages and skill levels to help throughout the year.

Whether you are or have been personally

affected by Alzheimer's disease or dementia, you want to give back to your community or are looking for career experience, the society wants to hear from you. It offers certified training programs.

Areas especially in need of volunteer help include for: friendly visiting, the Brain Wave Cafe, Minds in Motion, reception, office work and data entry.

Volunteers are also needed to assist with setup and at route stations for the Walk for Memories taking place on Sunday, Jan. 25, at Brock University. A \$75,000 fundraising goal has been set.

People can call volunteer co-ordinator Dawn Luckwell at 905-687-6856 ext. 544.

Spring floral showcase unveiled

Niagara Parks Commission's The Walk for Memories unveiled its annual spring display Saturday, featuring various arrangements and colourful greenery.

The display will run until March 27 at the 7145 Niagara Pkwy. showhouse.

The displays in greenhouses are regularly changed, with eight seasonal plant exhibitions showcased throughout the year. The spring display features a variety of Primula, Calceolaria, Cyclamen, Cineraria, Schizanthus, tropical plants and shrubs.

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For more information, visit www.niagaraparks.com.

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■ **ANIMALS:** Humane society offering \$20 surgeries to control kitten population

A no-litter plan for cats

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara
Beat the heat.

It's the catchy slogan Welland and District Humane Society is using to help prevent unwanted litters of kittens from being born

this spring.
Through the Beat the Heat program sponsored by PetSmart Charities of Canada, the humane

society is offering \$20 spay surgeries on female cats throughout February.

Procedures will be performed at Welland and District Regional Spay Neuter Clinic at 700 East Main St., which opened its doors in July.

"The premise behind it is that we want to get to female cats before we get into the (breeding) season and the shelter becomes inundated with kittens," said animal care manager Tammy Gaboury.

"We want to prevent those unwanted litters."

In 2015, the shelter had 2,700 cats and kittens come through its doors.

"Female cats can have as many as three litters a year, and kittens can breed as young as four months old," Gaboury said.

"Most people don't want to see their cat get pregnant over and over again, so hopefully our campaign will serve as a gentle reminder to cat owners to steri-

lize their cats before they go into heat this year."

Stray or feral cats are not eligible for the program.

Gaboury credited PetSmart Charities of Canada for making the campaign possible.

The humane society will partner with the organization on a number of campaigns throughout the year, she added.

As spaces are limited, people are asked to call and book their spay appointment as soon as possible by phoning 289-820-9651.

The program is open to all residents of Welland, Port Colborne, Wainfleet, Pelham, Lincoln, West Lincoln and Haldimand County.

For anyone unable to get one of the spots, the clinic regularly offers spay surgeries for female cats for \$75.

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■ **EDUCATION:** Event management, renovation technician students behind renovation of Welland non-profit agency

Many college hands to lift up Strive Niagara

GREG FURRMINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

Catherine Lane knows what it's like to have a baby while still in high school, then return to an education.

So it's somewhat poignant that the young woman now finds herself at a Niagara College renovation technician student getting to work on remodelling at Strive Niagara, a Welland-based non-profit agency that provides child care, outreach and other resources for young families that are pursuing education.

"I really look forward to seeing the end result and how it impacts the people," Lane said following last Friday morning's launch of the college's 2015 Many Hands project.

The Rose City woman said the changes should make Strive Niagara's East Main St. facilities more safe and inviting to young children and more suitable to the needs of its administration and for program delivery.

The 18th annual project —

like all of them supported by Canadian Tire Financial Services as lead sponsor — will see college students: renovate the front entrance to make it more inviting; modernize and increase efficiency in the lobby, re-configure the play area for children; enhance storage space and increase accessibility; and rejuvenate the outside of the building, which until the early 2000s were behind home to the YMCA.

"It's huge," Strive executive director Sandy Toth said of the importance of the Many Hands project to her facility and its clients.

"They need to feel relaxed, that it's a warm, homey location."

"That's not really the case now, she noted, pointing to large sections of paint peeling from the walls of the children's area that formerly was home to a swimming pool.

"You just never have funds to do renovations, Toth said.

What money Strive does get from Niagara Region social services, three United



Way agencies in the region, Branscombe Family Foundation and Niagara Community Foundation is put into programming and services.

"It's exciting to be able to work for a non-profit organization," said Martina Daskalova, the Many Hands special event co-ordinator. "It's nice to see where the funds are going."

The young Etobicoke woman opted to enrol at Niagara specifically after learning about Many Hands, a project that forms the bulk of the one-year event management certificate program at

Niagara.

All her classmates, in addition to presenting the project launch, will host five related fundraising events — including one hoped to break a world record for the largest dessert party.

"For us, every day is real-world experience," Daskalova said of her education.

Tina Hoenselaar of Oakville, the chair of this year's project, hadn't heard of Many Hands — but fortuitously for the woman pursuing a career in the non-profit sector "It just happened to be what this pro-

GREG FURRMINGER/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Niagara College event management students Ina Hoenselaar and Martina Daskalova and renovation technician students Catherine Lane and Caleb Cashmore are keeping themselves busy, with dozens of the peers, working on the school's 2015 Many Hands project that benefits Strive Niagara, a Welland non-profit agency that supports young families in need who are pursuing education.

gram is all about."

"I'm pretty excited about it."

College students jumped in right away, starting with site visits of grant applicants within the first two weeks of program start last September.

After being short-listed to a group of three, Strive Niagara — formerly named Adolescent's Family Support Services of Niagara — was chosen because it had the largest needs that would support students' education requirements, she said.

"This kind of had a lot for everybody."

Renovation technician student Caleb Cashmore, of St. Catharines, is anxious to put to work in the real world what simply can't be learned in a "made up" classroom environment.

"It opens up a can of worms," he said.

Students are working toward a \$50,000 goal to meet Strive's centre needs. CTFES contributed \$5,000.

Business dean Vivian Kinnaid said during the project launch that the Many Hands project "acts as a focal point as a way the college behaves in the community."

"It's an immense amount of pride we have at the college to participate in this immersed in the community," she said.

A large "under construction" banner will hang outside the Strive Niagara Building until finished renovations are revealed Saturday, April 14.

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to make of this woman standing in front of me crying, until she told me that within a few days of taking LeafSource her pain started to disappear and within a week it was completely gone - as if it was never there!" Ian goes on. "This coming from a woman whose painful joints and ongoing sciatica were so bad just one week earlier, that the pain was unbearable but now has completely subsided." By now you are probably wondering what is LeafSource and why is it so effective? LeafSource is a 100% natural product derived from a proprietary organic mineral composite with over ten years of university research. LeafSource helps regulate the inflammatory process and the body's ability to repair itself. The vast majority (70 - 80%) of the population over the age of 50 have joint problems - often called osteoarthritis. This is due to the natural (or unnatural) wear and tear on joint tissue that develops through the aging process. With joint inflammation, movement is limited and pain can be constant. LeafSource seems to have the ability to help people get their mobility

and zest for life back. Millions of people seek treatment for their joint and inflammation problems by resorting to expensive, toxic prescription drugs (i.e. NSAIDs) with multiple side effects. These range from nausea and vomiting to serious intestinal disorders (bleeding, gas, pain) and even kidney and liver failure. Isn't that too large a price to pay for a little pain relief? LeafSource is a safe alternative to these destructive anti-inflammatory drugs that cause more problems than they solve. There are absolutely no side effects and it doesn't interfere with any other medications. Controlled experiments and observations have revealed that LeafSource is a potent antiinflammatory that has been shown to bring a reduction to inflammation and pain within a few days. People notice great results in terms of more energy and less pain by taking anywhere from 2 to 6 capsules daily. Typical maintenance is usually 1 capsule twice daily. This product gets results! LeafSource is scientifically validated through more than 10 years of research at 4 universities, including the Department of

Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mercer University. Aside from its incredible anti-inflammatory and pain reducing ability, it has also been shown to improve the performance of your daily nutrition and vitamin programs. It helps increase the absorption of vital nutrients, which in turn helps these nutrients work better. Better absorption = better results! It's almost as if they have become supercharged! LeafSource has also been shown to help enhance energy levels, improve intestinal health, strengthen hair, skin and nails and improve immune function. To see someone go from intense pain to a new lease on life within a week is

truly incredible. Imagine being able to move freely without pain. Who wouldn't want to get out of bed in the morning with more energy? It's amazing how much of this stuff we take for granted, until it's gone! Ian adds, "I often recommend that LeafSource be taken with other natural joint products in order to help them work better and provide even faster relief. One of the things I hear most often from people who have tried LeafSource is they just plain feel better, have more energy and less pain. We're so confident, we guarantee LeafSource 100%! That alone should be enough to try this incredible product."



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(905) 892-1577

PORT COLBORNE

DeWitt Carter Public School
435 Fares Street, Port Colborne
(905) 834-7440

McKay Public School
200 Fielden Avenue, Port Colborne
(905) 834-4753
A Child's World
Child Care On-site
(905) 380-5306

Oakwood Public School
255 Omer Avenue, Port Colborne
(905) 834-9732
A Child's World
Child Care On-site
(905) 835-9752

Steele Street Public School
214 Steele Street, Port Colborne
(905) 834-4333

ST. CATHARINES

Alexandria Public School
*Students will attend Harriet Tubman Public School
84 Henry Street, St. Catharines
(905) 685-5489
YMCA Child Care On-site
(905) 684-5951

Applewood Public School
130 Woodson Street, St. Catharines
(905) 684-4359

Burleigh Hill Public School
15 Burleigh Hill Drive, St. Catharines
(905) 227-6641

Carleton Public School
1 Carleton Park Dr., St. Catharines
(905) 934-5243
YMCA Child Care On-site
(905) 937-6621

Connaught Public School
28 Prince Street, St. Catharines
(905) 682-6609
A Child's World
Child Care On-site
(905) 682-3834

E.I. McCulley Public School
16 Berkley Drive, St. Catharines
(905) 934-7344

Edith Cavell Public School
1 Monck Street, St. Catharines
(905) 684-6545
Western Hill Day Care
On-site
(905) 684-6288

Fernside Public School
35 Fernside Avenue, St. Catharines
(905) 684-1101
A Child's World
Child Care On-site
(905) 682-7999

Glen Ridge Public School
101 South Drive, St. Catharines
(905) 685-9586
YMCA Child Care On-site
(905) 684-4770

Gracefield Public School
117 Bayview Drive, St. Catharines
(905) 934-1411
YMCA Child Care On-site
(905) 646-9622

Grapewood Public School
106 Fox Street (South), St. Catharines
(905) 984-5517
YMCA Child Care On-site
(905) 682-9455

Lincoln Centennial Public School
348 Scott Street, St. Catharines
(905) 937-5110
Bunting Child Care On-site
(905) 937-0170

Lockview Public School
505 Bunting Road, St. Catharines
(905) 934-3331
YMCA Child Care On-site
(905) 935-8427

Maywood Public School
*Open house at Alexandria Public School - students will attend Harriet Tubman Public School
140 Haig Street, St. Catharines
(905) 685-8451

Memorial Public School
*Open house at Alexandria Public School - students will attend Harriet Tubman Public School
17 Wileland Avenue, St. Catharines
(905) 685-7347

Oakridge Public School
1 Marsdale Avenue, St. Catharines
(905) 684-6589
YMCA Child Care On-site
(905) 685-6105

Parnall Public School
507 Geneva Street, St. Catharines
(905) 934-3348
YMCA Child Care On-site
(905) 937-5260

Pine Grove Public School
690 Lake Street, St. Catharines
(905) 935-1901
YMCA Child Care On-site
(905) 934-9091

Port Weller Public School
273 Parnell Road, St. Catharines
(905) 934-3322
YMCA Child Care On-site
(905) 937-0312

Power Glen Public School
344 Weiland Street, St. Catharines
(905) 684-7429
YMCA Child Care On-site
(905) 984-3344

Prince of Wales Public School
95 Facer Street, St. Catharines
(905) 937-2225
Boys and Girls Club Kids
First Child Care On-site
(905) 937-1072

Prince Philip Public School
600 Vine Street, St. Catharines
(905) 934-2525
YMCA Child Care On-site
(905) 935-9973

Westdale Public School
130 Rykert Street, St. Catharines
(905) 682-9284
YMCA Child Care On-site
(905) 397-9095

William Hamilton Merritt Public School
114 Lincolnton Road, St. Catharines
(905) 937-0510
YMCA Child Care On-site
(905) 934-9047

Woodland Public School
1511 76th Street (South), St. Catharines
(905) 685-1331
A Child's World
Child Care On-site
(905) 359-2385

THOROLD
Ontario Public School
530 Alabaster Road, Thorold
(905) 227-2851

Prince of Wales Public School
40 Pine Street, Thorold
(905) 227-1321
YMCA Child Care
After School Program

Richmond Street Public School
133 Richmond Street, Thorold
(905) 227-2971
Therapy Community
Activities Group After School Care*

Westmount Public School
73 Ann Street West, Thorold
(905) 227-3827
YMCA Child Care*

Westmount Public School
73 Ann Street West, Thorold
(905) 227-3827
YMCA Child Care*

WAINFLEET
William E. Brown
Public School
31870 Lee Street, Wainfleet
(905) 899-3471

Winger Public School
53220 Winger Road, Wainfleet
(905) 899-3821

WELLAND
Diamond Hill Public School
315 Southworth Street, Welland
(905) 734-3208

Fitch Street Public School
164 Fitch Street, Welland
(905) 732-3683

Glendale Public School
24 Farham Avenue, Welland
(905) 735-5213
YMCA Child Care On-site
(905) 734-1209

Gordon Public School
468 Thorold Rd. W., Welland
(905) 734-3730

Plymouth Public School
111 First Street, Welland
(905) 732-4110
A Child's World
*supervised walk to location
(905) 735-8312

Princess Elizabeth Public School
300 Schofield Avenue, Welland
(905) 734-3460

Quaker Road Public School
333 Quaker Road, Welland
(905) 732-5412
Strive Niagara
Child Care On-site
(905) 735-1465

Ross Public School
358 Niagara Street, Welland
(905) 734-4273
A Child's World
Child Care On-site
(905) 735-1162

WEST LINCOLN
Caltor Center Public School
1794 Regional Rd. E, Caltor Centre
(905) 957-7473


College Street Public School
132 College St., Smithville
(905) 957-7024
YMCA Child Care On-site
(905) 956-0995

Gainsborough Public School
5459 Highway 20 R. #2, St. Anns
(905) 386-6223



www.dsbni.org

Come on in to our Kindergarten Open House! Visit anytime between 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Thursday, February 5



**PLAY IS OFTEN TALKED ABOUT
AS IF IT WERE A RELIEF FROM
SERIOUS LEARNING.**

**BUT FOR CHILDREN
PLAY IS
SERIOUS LEARNING.**

**PLAY IS REALLY THE WORK
OF CHILDHOOD.**

Fred Rogers



Play is serious business for children!

Young children are always on the go. Whether it's running, climbing, dressing up, taking things apart or putting them back together again, they seldom sit still. While this sometimes chaotic activity may seem like "just play," it's anything but. The reality is there's much more happening beneath the surface.

What they're doing	What they're learning
Puzzles	→ Problem solving, concentration
Playing with blocks	→ Shapes, recognizing differences, logic
Playing dress up	→ Self expression, creativity, imagination
Running, jumping, skipping	→ How the body works, strength and flexibility
Games with friends	→ Social skills, taking turns and sharing
Singing and dancing	→ Listening, rhythm and coordination
Sand and water play	→ Solids, liquids, measurement

Play helps stimulate children's intellectual growth. By engaging in different kinds of play, children learn how to reason, hypothesize, and interact with one another. DSBN Kindergarten programs pair that with academic learning, such as numbers and letters, to help children build a powerful foundation for a successful school career. Best of all? They'll have fun doing it!

**Come on in to
our Kindergarten Open House!**

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10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
on Thursday, February 5**

www.dsbni.org/kindergarten